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Description.  
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numerous, are fenced by hedges and are well shaded by trees. Further east a range of low flat-topped hills coming from the north-west disappears near the Krishna. East of these hills the country stretches flatter and poorer, a waving treeless flat, with long stretches of sheet rock. The upper valley of the Don is very fertile and grows unwatered wheat; in other places there is little tillage except in low-lying plots at the sides of brooks and in occasional patches of black soil. Here and there the dull bare plain is broken by steep solitary peaks and granite rocks. Every five or six miles, marked by a few *nim* and tamarind trees and brightened by garden patches, are the sites of villages of flat mud-roofed houses surrounded by more or less ruinous walls. The south-west rain is uncertain and scanty and the people trust mainly to the north-east supply. Most of the crops belong to the late harvest, white *juári*, millet, cajan pea, linseed, and wheat.

Hills.

Except some parts of Athni in the north and of Sampgaon in the south, the district is thickly covered with ranges of hills, some of them topped with strongly built forts, some of them covered with wild brushwood and prickly-pear, and some with their sides carefully tilled almost to the tops.

North  
Ghatprabha  
Spur.

Two great spurs cross Belgaum from west to east, and form the water-partings that divide the drainage area of the Ghatprabha from that of the Krishna on the north and of the Malprabha on the south. The water-parting between the Ghatprabha and the Krishna, which may be called the North Ghatprabha Spur, rises in the Sávantvádi state close above the famous hill-fort of Manohargad about forty miles north-west of Belgaum. After running north-east for more than thirty miles it turns nearly east till it reaches Chikodi. Among the sandstone hills, which in this part of the district go to form the North Ghatprabha Spur, the chief are the table-topped and ironclay-capped hills of Vallabhagad or Hargápur (560 feet high) about fifteen miles south-west, and Hunur or Pavitra or Páijargudd (270) about seventeen miles south, of Chikodi; the flat-topped hills of Mallayan or Ádigudd (630) about twelve miles west, and of Julapengudd (730) and Nágarhál (850) about five miles north, of Chikodi; of Nágarpachmi (390), Jogigudd (875), and Nirvánepan (710) within a mile of Chikodi; and of Shendur or Rásubái (670) with a pointed top, about five miles west of Nipáni. Of these Pavitrargudd is alone difficult to climb. All are covered during the rainy months with grass and have no other vegetation; all are infested with jackals and wolves. Except Nágarpachmi, Jogigudd, and Nirvánepan all have their tops or sides tilled with wheat, millet, and rice, by Maráthás, Lingáyats, Jains, Mhárs, and Musalmáns. From Chikodi the main spur passes east right across Belgaum and beyond the Belgaum boundary till it is cut by the valley of the Ghatprabha close to its meeting with the Krishna. It reappears in Kaládgi as a low ridge east of the Ghatprabha and continues eastward for about twelve miles along the southern bank of the Krishna.

North  
Malprabha  
Spur.

The second great spur may be called the North Malprabha Spur. Starting from the north side of the Tolkat pass, about twenty-four

miles west of Belgaum, it rises into the high ridge known as the Kásar Sudda. Of the hills which form the North Malprabha Spur the two most noticeable are Párgad about thirty-six miles, and Kálánandigad about twenty miles west of Belgaum. The peaked hill of Párgad is so steep that it has to be climbed by rock-cut steps. The sides are wooded except where patches have been cleared for wood-ash tillage. It has a ruined fort and several reservoirs. The highest point of the range is the perfectly table-topped hill-fort of Kálánandigad on the Rám pass road between 800 and 900 feet above the plain. Its base is more rugged and its upper slopes are steeper than those of the neighbouring hills. The ascent from the north side is by about one and a half miles of steep footpath. Unlike the neighbouring hills Párgad seems to consist throughout of a very heavy red clayey iron-stone and the capping is sharply scarped all round the edge. The other hills forming the spur are generally neither very high nor very steep. They yield little but grass and a scanty sprinkling of brushwood, and their slopes fall gently almost into the plain leaving near the base large spaces fit for tillage. Though towards the west of Chándgad about twenty-two miles north-west of Belgaum the timber-covered hills are high and abrupt, the main spur sinks to the north of Chándgad, but again rises in the high ridge of Gandharvagad two or three miles further. The Gandharvagad hill with a ruined fort has rather bare sides. The ascent is about a quarter of a mile, steep on one side and easy on the other. At Rájgoli, a little to the east of Gandharvagad, the main spur is crossed by the narrow valley of the Támraparni. In the next ten miles it is broken by the channels of the Islámpur, Márkándeya, Belgaum, Kelvi, Iranhatti, and Nandi, all flowing north-east to join the Ghatprabha. In this part of the district, especially to the north of Belgaum, are long sandstone ridges with grass and brushwood covered sides, and nearly level tops, none of them more than 300 feet high and none of them too steep to be used as grazing grounds. Beyond Nandi, for fifty miles in an unbroken line, the main spur continues to separate the Ghatprabha from the Malprabha. It ends in the Ámingad hills, about ten miles west of Hungund in Kaládgi and 130 miles east of the Sahyádris.

Besides these main ranges three important but minor spurs, the Mahipálgad ridge about ten miles north-west of Belgaum, the Bailur ridge about fourteen miles south-west of Belgaum, and the Jámboti ridge about six miles south of Bailur, stretch east from the Sahyádris. The hills forming the Mahipálgad and Bailur ridges are lofty, their bases large, and their outlines bold and striking. The Mahipálgad hill-fort is perfectly table-topped and is capped with iron-clay. It is the highest point of the range and its sides fairly clothed with wood. The ascent is about 3000 feet long by an easy path. Bailur, which is a table-topped mass, is capped with iron-clay, the capping being sharply scarped all round the edge. It is one of the Trigonometrical Survey Stations, and is the highest point in the district, being 3491 feet above the sea level. After a length of about five miles, the Bailur ridge disappears in

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the valley of a streamlet which runs into the Malprabha. Beyond the valley it again rises in the high and very noticeable hill of Yellurgad. This, which has the ruins of a fine old fort, is one of the Trigonometrical Survey Stations, 3365 feet above the sea level and 797 above the sill of the chief gate of the Belgaum fort. Beyond Yellurgad, the ridge stretches fourteen miles north-east by east when it touches the southward extension of the great North Malprabha Spur. Here the most noticeable hill is the bold and high Kardigudi, a Trigonometrical Station about twelve miles east of Belgaum. After touching the North Malprabha Spur the ridge runs for three or four miles further and sinks into the somewhat raised plain which forms the water-shed between the Ghatprabha and the Malprabha. The Jámboti ridge which is about six miles south of the Bailur hills, has the special interest of being the most southerly mountain mass within the Deccan trap area. The hills which form this ridge are high, more or less wooded to their summits, and press closely on each other. The chief is Kirvalegudd or Goraknath eight miles west of Khánápur. It is about 2100 feet high and is flat-topped. It has a sloping ascent and the sides are covered with brushwood giving shelter to tigers and spotted deer.

*Detached Hills.*

Among the isolated hills, unconnected with the Sahyádrí spurs, some lie to the north of the Krishna, some to the north of the Ghatprabha, and some both north and south of the Malprabha. Of the hills to the north of the Krishna, the most noticeable are those round the town of Athni and those in the north-west of the Athni sub-division. The hills round Athni town are rolling flat-topped sandstone ranges, 200 to 300 feet above the plain, bare of vegetation except prickly-pear. Those on the north-west of the sub-division belong to a spur that runs south-east from Sátára. Within Athni limits the bare flat-topped hills rise from the plain in clear cut terraces, whose outlines, unbroken by trees or bushes, stand out with marked clearness when caught by the rays of the sun. Of this range the chief hill within Belgaum limits is Junápnála or Belvankigudd, a rugged fortified peak, about fifteen miles north-west of Athni. It rises about 1000 feet above the plain and is covered with short thorny scrub and grass. On its flat top Lingáyat and Marátha husbandmen raise crops of wheat and gram. Of the hills to the north of the Ghatprabha there are the sandstone ranges in Gokák, 200 to 300 feet high, which run north and south and are covered with prickly-pear. About two miles north of Gokák the bold rugged slopes and table-topped mass of Bágedgudd or Bastigudd reaches a height of 2667 feet, and stands 700 to 800 feet above the plain. It is a great mass of trap in which the lines of eight leading flows may be clearly traced. About seven miles east of Gokák is the Manikeri ridge of reddish drab quartzite beds capped with trap. Manikeri, the highest point, is a Trigonometrical Station about 2458 feet above the sea. The top commands a wide view in which the objects of most interest are the Gokák falls and the Gokák scarp. At Hulkund, four miles south-east of Manikeri, the ridge is crossed by a river bed, but it rises again to the east and forms two conspicuous rocky hills. Of the hills to the

north of the Malprabha, the Kathárigad hill, about twelve miles north-west of Saundatti, is 2844 feet above the sea and about 1200 feet above the plain. It is covered with prickly-pear and brushwood sheltering wild hogs and panthers. It has a remarkable flat dome with steep deep-fissured sides. The hill is formed of granite gneiss capped by a mass of quartzite. To the geologist the view from the top is of great interest. South of the Malprabha river and four miles north of the Kel pass, in the extreme west, stands the flat-topped hill-fort of Bhimgad, rugged, steep, and surrounded by a double line of broken hills, rising 1800 feet from the plain. From the north side of the great Mahádáyi ravine looking over the scarp formed by the edge of the trap area, the fort, with the neighbouring limestone peak and several huge masses which have slipped into the valley, forms a view of rock and forest of rare wildness and beauty. The way up is by rock-cut steps, through bush-covered slopes which shelter bears, tigers, wolves, and bison. Neither the top nor the sides are tilled. At the foot of the hill is a village inhabited chiefly by Maráthás. About ten miles south-east of Bhimgad is the flat-topped hill of Dongargávgudd. It is about 2400 feet above the plain and is covered with scattered trees sheltering tigers, leopards, and wolves. There is no tillage and there are no hamlets. About twelve miles north-east of Dongargávgudd the flat-topped Samshergudd rises about 1800 feet from the plain. Its gentle slopes are covered with rocks and a few trees which shelter hyænas, wild dogs, and hares. About three miles south of Shamshergudd the flat-topped hill of Máchigad or Bijganigudd rises about 1500 feet above the plain. It is covered with trees and its top and sides are tilled. About eight miles south of Máchigad the flat-topped sloping hill of Kumbhárddegudd rises about 1800 feet from the plain. It is covered with trees which shelter tigers, leopards, and wolves. Sampgaon has three hills, Deshnur about ten miles north, Ganimardi about ten miles south, and Hitalmardi about eighteen miles south-west of Sampgaon. The flat-topped Deshnur hill, about 1320 feet above the plain, is covered with grass and brushwood. Bedars, Lingáyats, and Maráthás till its top with gram, millet, and *rági*. The other two hills, which are also flat-topped, have their sides covered with grass and brushwood. The top of Hitalmardi is tilled and millet and rice are grown on it. The Parasgad hills are flat-topped and are covered with brushwood and prickly-pear sheltering panthers and wild hog. Of these hills Yellamma about 425 feet above the plain is three miles, and Huli about 300 feet above the plain is six miles, north-east of Saundatti; Hirekummi, a Trigonometrical Survey Station, 2572 feet above the sea and 500 to 600 feet above the plain, is about eight miles south-east of Saundatti; Someshvargudd about 350 feet above the plain is about thirteen miles north-west of Saundatti; and the Parasgad hill is about a mile south of Saundatti. The Parasgad hill is about 600 feet above the plain and 2572 feet above the sea and has steep rocky sides difficult to climb.

The district drains eastward along the three lines of the Krishna in the north, the Ghatprabha in the centre, and the Malprabha in the south. None of these rivers is navigable, and between February

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*The Krishna.*

and May the volume of the Krishna is much reduced, and the Ghatprabha and Malprabha shrink into small streams. All three have worn deep courses through the surface black soil and laterite, and most of their banks are covered with *bábhul* trees.

The source of the KRISHNA is near the hill-station of Mahábaleshvar in Sátára, at a height of 4000 feet above the sea. After a south-easterly course of about 175 miles, through Sátára and parts of Sángli Miraj and Kolhápur, it enters Belgaum at the village of Ganeshpur about twenty miles north of Chikodi, and, after flowing about six miles to the south-west, receives from the west the waters of the Panchganga. Below this meeting the united streams turn nearly at right angles to the south-east, cross a narrow strip of Kolhápur, and enter Chikodi, forming for about five miles the boundary between Chikodi and Athni, until at the village of Sháhápur, the river turns nearly west for three miles when it again changes to the south-east. At this point it receives from the west the waters of the Dudhganga, which, with its tributary the Vedganga, drain the north and west of Chikodi. Below the meeting the river runs five miles to the south-east when it again turns north-east for about eight miles. Next it passes through Ráybág of Kolhápur, where, near Chinchí, it is joined by a streamlet called Halhauila in Kanarese, but by Musalmáns called Dudh Nalla or Milk-river from its white water.<sup>1</sup> After a few miles it suddenly turns north and enters Athni, where it winds to the south-east and then to the north-east, receiving the Agrani from the north about eight miles south-west of Athni. Beyond this it flows south-east, and forming the south boundary of Athni, turns north-east till it enters Kaládgi near a village called Janvád. Close to the Krishna are many plots of garden land and the banks are covered with trees. The river sides are steep and scarped from twenty to fifty feet high, generally of black soil or laterite. In the rocky bed are many *bábhul* shaded islands.<sup>2</sup> The monsoon freshes fill the river bed from bank to bank, and, as a rule, from June to December the volume of water is very large. During the dry months the stream greatly dwindles, and between March and June there is but a scanty flow.<sup>3</sup> There are eight ferries at Ainápur, Hálihál, Satti, Mahisvádgi, Savadi, Shirhati, Chikk Padsalgi, and Híre Padsalgi. The ferry boats are round wicker baskets covered with leather, twelve to fifteen feet in diameter, and able to carry thirty to forty passengers.

*The Ghatprabha.*

From its source in Sundargad to the north of the Rám pass till it joins the Krishna at Kudli-Sangam about thirty miles north-east of Kaládgi the GHATPRABHA has a total length of 100 miles.

<sup>1</sup> Moor's Narrative, 268.

<sup>2</sup> On one of these islands about a mile east of Kudchi, Lieutenant Moor of Captain Little's detachment found (1791) a beautiful mango grove overshadowing two Musalman tombs. One was of a Musalman saint named Shaikh Muhammad Suraj-ul-Din and the other of a princess of Balkh. Both had travelled so far to make converts to the true faith. They settled on the island and remained for many years doing acts of charity and benevolence. Narrative, 269.

<sup>3</sup> In the middle of May 1791 Lieutenant Moor found the Krishna near Ainápur about 500 yards from bank to bank. There was much water, the deepest part on the north bank being five feet. Narrative, 269, 300.



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*The Ghatprabha,*

After flowing about thirty miles north-east through Kolhápúr the GHATPRABHA enters the district north of the village of Shedihál at the junction of the Belgaum and Chikodi sub-divisions. From Shedihál, near which it receives the Támraparni from the south, the Ghatprabha flows about twenty miles north-east across the Chikodi sub-division, where it is joined from the west by the Harankáshi. It then enters Gokák between the villages of Sultánpur on the west and Shivápúr on the east. From this it takes a sharp turn to the north, running along the boundary of the sub-division. It again turns suddenly to the south-east and flows in an almost straight course to Gokák. Three miles to the west of Gokák rushing through a rugged and picturesque gorge between two ranges of sandstone hills and dashing over a cliff about 175 feet high, the river forms the falls of Gokák, whose thundering roar is heard for about five miles round. Except in the rains, little water is seen in the rocky bed of the river above the fall. It runs in narrow channels deep cut into the rock, till, as it reaches the brink of the cliff, it spreads across the bed of the river. For some distance above the fall the force of the current has worn many large holes which are a favourite bathing-place for Bráhmans and others who come to visit the local deity Mahálingeshvar. The grandeur of the falls varies greatly at different seasons, but from June to December they are almost always worth a visit. A little above the fall the river is about 250 yards across but narrows to eighty as it reaches the brink of the chasm. This narrowing greatly increases the depth and the speed of the mass of water, which, at the rate of ten feet a second, hurries ten feet deep down the shelving tables of rock. The denseness of the body of water, and its dull muddy colour make the fall seem slow and sullen.<sup>1</sup> But the feeling of massive weight is relieved by light and airy clouds of white and amber spray, which, rising from the depth of the gorge in curling wreaths, veil the foot of the fall, except when a fitful gust sweeping up the glen scatters the spray. Above the crest of the gorge the spray vanishes as it rises; but it again gathers, and at a little distance falls in gentle showers. Spray-bows, of varying brightness, clearness, and size, lend their tints to the ever rising vapour.<sup>2</sup>

About two miles below the falls, and half a mile above the town of Gokák, the Ghatprabha receives the Márkándeya, after a course of about forty miles from the hills to the west of Belgaum. From Gokák the Ghatprabha again runs north-east and passes out of Belgaum into the Mudhol state. Except among hills the banks are low and gently sloping, and, in places, owing to the hardness of the rock, the bed is very shallow. Like the Krishna it is unfit for navigation. In 1835 the water rose so high as to cover three of the flight of steps which leads to the largest of the temples on the right

<sup>1</sup> A tumbler of water deposited about one-fiftieth of a fine reddish clay. Captain Newbold in Geological Papers on Western India, 354.

<sup>2</sup> Spray-bows like rainbows are formed only on the surface of the cloud facing the sun. The brightness of their tints depends on the size and closeness of the particles of vapour. They are brightest where the particles are of middle size and closeness and grow dull as the particles are smaller and denser. The largest spray-bows are to be seen in the evening. They form an arch right across the river, and, as the sun sets, rise, withdraw, and vanish. Memoir Geological Survey, XII. Part I. 89.

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*The Malprabha or  
Malapahári.*

bank of the river at Gokák. The chief ferries are at Hádkal, Ghodgiri, Modga Dodali, Hansihal, Gokák, Tigdi, and Dhavleshvar. Like those on the Krishna the boats are round coracles, wicker-work covered with leather.

Unlike the Krishna and the Ghatprabha, which rise beyond the limit of the district, the MALPRABHA has its source among the eastern Sahyádris spurs about eight miles west of Jámboṭi in Khánápur.

Of the origin of the river this story is told: In the village of Kankumbi, on the eastern brow of the Sahyádris, lived a man who was happy in being the husband of a beautiful and virtuous woman. In spite of his wife's goodness jealousy seized his soul, and he gave his wife neither rest nor peace. At length, driven to despair, she sacrificed to the gods and putting up a prayer to Basava, the patron of Lingáyats, threw herself into a mountain tarn. No sooner did the pool receive this sacrifice than its waters began to rise, and, flowing over their banks, formed a river which was called Malprabha or Malapahári, the Cleanser from Sin.

From its source in Khánápur the Malprabha runs east for about thirteen miles, when it turns south-east for about eight miles, and then north-east past the towns of Khánápur and Lokodi. In this part of its course, though it is shallow in the fair season, it continues to flow throughout the year. Through Sampgaon, across which it next flows in an almost easterly direction, it is a sluggish stream, running in a deep bed between high steep banks.<sup>1</sup> Crossing Parasgad in a north-easterly direction it passes into the Torgal state near the village of Basargi. About four miles north of Saundatti the Malprabha rushes violently through a gorge in the Manoli hills. Before the river wore this gorge through the hills the plain to the west was probably an inland lake, whose surplus waters fell, as at Gokák, over the north face of the cliff. By degrees the fall wore the rock and gradually cut a passage backwards till the lake was reached and its waters drained. On either bank of the gorge is a rock naturally formed into a rough figure. These rocks are the subject of the following story: In former days the river, instead of passing through the hills, crept humbly and slowly round their base. One day a peacock, who sat flaunting his gorgeous tail on the top of the rocks, reproached the river for its humility in creeping round the base of the hill and keeping to the level ground. Enraged at the peacock's taunts the river suddenly changed its course and rushed to the spot on which the peacock was sunning himself. Before the bird had time to take to flight he was changed to stone, and the water bursting the barrier of rocks broke the image of the peacock one-half of it on either bank. From this, it is said, the place took the name of Navil Tirth or the Peacock's Pool.<sup>2</sup> The gorge which

<sup>1</sup> At Sangoli, about five miles south-east of Sampgaon, Lieutenant Moor, of Captain Little's detachment, found (May 1791-92) the Malprabha about two hundred yards across with two feet of water and a good bottom. Narrative, 45, 259.

<sup>2</sup> According to another legend, a peacock, hard pressed by its pursuers, was unable to fly over the chain of hills which rises to the north of the great black plain. In its terror it cried piteously and the deity of the Malprabha, taking pity on the bird, clove a passage through the rocks by which it escaped. Finding the new passage convenient, the goddess adopted it as a channel for her stream, and has